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OXC-0072-67

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Special Activities

SUBJECT: A-12 Operations, Calendar Year 1967

1. Per your request the following is forwarded based on the choice of Alternative 3 selected from the "Memorandum For the President"; Subject: Advanced Reconnaissance Aircraft; dated 26 December 1966 [REDACTED]

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2. Alternative 3 states "mothball A-12 aircraft and phase-out the CIA fleet capability by January, 1968." It is our interpretation that this means the A-12 capability and responsibility for reconnaissance will remain under CIA control for the calendar year 1967. If this interpretation is correct, the DCI, DD/S&T, and D/SA need firm policy guidance to assure the A-12 mission capability and phase-out planning. The Director of OSA should be assigned specific responsibility and authority to develop a coordinated and approved OXCART operational concept for the calendar year 1967 and a properly time-phased and logistically supported deactivation plan.

3. Once the above authority is granted, approval should be given for the following concept of operations:

a. 1 January 1967 to 1 July 1967: Maintain world-wide capability to conduct operational missions from a prepared overseas location and simultaneously from [REDACTED] Readiness posture to include maintenance of 15 day QRC for BLACK SHIELD and 7 day QRC for SKYLARK.

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b. 1 July 1967 to 31 December 1967: Maintain world-wide capability to conduct operational missions from either a prepared overseas location or from [REDACTED] but not simultaneously. Readiness posture to include maintenance of QRC capability for either BLACK SHIELD or SKYLARK.

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4. Upon approval of the proposed concept of operations, a definite programming document will be developed by the DCI to permit a planned and orderly phase-out of the A-12 program to include:

a. Mothballing of aircraft

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- b. Logistical Support Items
- c. Personnel Phasing
- d. Budgetary Requirements
- e. Deactivation of Supporting Base facilities

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- (1) [REDACTED]
- (2) Kadena AB, Okinawa
- (3) Eielson AFB, Alaska
- (4) [REDACTED]
- (5) [REDACTED]

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- f. Identification and dates of national assets to be made available by release from the A-12 program.

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[REDACTED]  
WILLIAM E. SHELTON  
Colonel, USAF

Deputy for Operations, OSA

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SAS/O/OSA [REDACTED] (3 Jan 67)  
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